

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Library Network Development

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATE:

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING:

1. Discuss issues relating to the development of Evaluation Tools to review network applications for approval and to recommend the budget to fund regional plans of service.
2. Discuss issues relating to the status of planning activity within the Planning Regions, including updates from each planning region with dates for regional status applications to the Board.
3. Review expenditure of Library of California funds allocated by the Board at the February and April 2000 meetings and discuss requests from Planning Regions for potential additional regional development grants in 2000/2001.

ISSUE 1: Discuss issues relating to the development of Evaluation Tools to review network applications for approval and to recommend the budget to fund regional plans of service.

There are two issues related to evaluating network applications.

1. Application Review: The state board is required to approve networks, and the review process must ensure that applications are made in accordance with the provisions of the Act and its Regulations.
2. Funding Review: Should there be a need to fund network operations separate from the process of approving them as entities, there also needs to be an evaluation mechanism for determining the level of funding budgeted and approved. This would be potentially based on the plans of service presented as part of the application.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

The state board is responsible for approving regional library networks. During the discussion of regulations for this process, it was determined that the initial portion of this review would be delegated to staff, and that the Board would be presented with the application materials and a staff recommendation for approval or disapproval. A process for actual review of application materials was not developed.

Article 5, Section 20316 of the Regulations for the Library of California governs the establishment of regional library networks, and states the Board's obligations for reviewing and approving applications for network status. This article, reproduced below, does not provide any specifics for analysis of the application packet. Section 20313 of the Regulations entitled Affiliation with a Regional Library Network provides a little more clarification in relation to the state board's determination of exceptions to geographical contiguity. Neither of these sections addresses the specifics of a review process.

Article 5. Regional Library Networks

20316. Establishment of Regional Library Networks.

- (a) The state board shall use the following criteria to approve the boundaries of the regional library networks, considering both cost-effectiveness and relationship to the resource sharing purposes of this chapter: public library jurisdictional boundaries; commonality with boundaries of educational institutions; recognition of current transportation, marketing, and communications patterns; location of and access to library resources; adequacy of resources for resource sharing purposes; population; and geographical contiguity.
- (b) Every geographic area of the state shall be served by a regional library network.
- (c) Upon receipt of a plan for a regional library network as set forth in Education Code Section 18840, the state board shall review the plan for completeness and for compliance with the purposes and provisions of the Act.
- (d) The state board shall conclude its plan review within one hundred and twenty days from the submission of the plan and approve or disapprove it. If a regional library network's plan is disapproved, the state board shall note the reason(s) for its disapproval and may make recommendations as to modifications which would make the plan approvable. A modified plan may be re-submitted for state board consideration.
- (e) Upon state board approval, a regional library network shall be established for the purposes of this Act and its organization and members shall be recognized as eligible to receive services and funds under the provisions of this Act. The establishment and recognition of the regional library network shall be considered effective on the first July 1 following state board approval. The state board may approve an earlier effective date if it determines that such action would best serve the purposes of the Act.

With Gold Coast Library Network's application submitted on May 10, 2000, it became necessary to develop a process to review their plan. The LoC Team met and determined that it was appropriate for the regional liaison, the LoC Director and any other interested LoC Team member to review the application packet to determine first if it was in compliance with the Section 18840 Act. An activity log was also developed to note activity related to the processing of the application packet.

Sec. 18840. Required plan.

To be eligible for funds under this article, a regional library network shall submit a plan to the state board for approval. The plan shall include all of the following:

- (a) An organizational structure.
- (b) Bylaws.
- (c) Membership policies, assuring that all eligible libraries in eligible public library jurisdictions and in eligible institutions in the geographic region will be enabled to participate.
- (d) A long-range plan, including the transition of services from the California Library Services Act to the Library of California Act, the criteria and functions for regional resource libraries, and the linkages with information agencies in the region.
- (e) The endorsement of the charter members. The charter members shall include more than one type of library.
- (f) Geographical contiguity.

The process developed for review of applications provides for initial review of application materials for completeness, and for staff to contact the planning region immediately so that any needed changes can be made simultaneously with the review. In addition, each document in the packet will be reviewed to make sure that it meets the requirements of the law. Diana Paque has met with Paul Smith, legal counsel, to discuss the level of scrutiny required for application materials. In that discussion Paul indicated that the Board's role is to make sure that the materials meet the letter and spirit of the Act. However, he did not recommend that the Board scrutinize materials to the extent that they are commenting on specific content of policies, plans, or other items which are the purview of the region unless those are in conflict with some provision(s) of the Act or regulations.

Using Gold Coast's application as an example, Gold Coast's application materials were reviewed by Bessie Condos Tichauer, the liaison to Region 7, and Diana Paque. In that review, it was determined that while requests from libraries to become charter members were in the packet, verification of governing board authorization for their memberships were not. Copies of the membership applications with appropriate signatures were then requested from the Region to be part of the application. Additional concerns found in the documents were immediately shared with the regional contact so that the regional Core Planning Group could respond and make changes to the documents if they chose to do so.

Based upon this review, the region was notified of instances in their documents where there were questions about legality or identified need for revision. In consultation with their Core Planning Group, regional contacts notified staff that they were requesting that their application be held for consideration until the August Board meeting so that they could resolve the identified conflicts.

From the review of Gold Coast's materials, the review process developed by staff appears to be adequate. Staff reviewed the law and the regulations in relation to each document submitted, and notified the regional contact immediately when a discrepancy was identified. Review by the liaison and the director was sufficient to identify areas of concern that later required legal review. Paul Smith was asked to issue an opinion on an element of Gold Coast's bylaws when staff suspected a section in potential violation of the Act. From the staff perspective, this process was expeditious in the review of materials, identification of problem areas, and communication of concerns with the regional contact.

FUNDING REVIEW:

While the process described above meets the legal requirements for review of materials, it does not provide for any mechanism to address how the Board should consider allocation of funds to support network operations. Given that there is limited funding available to support operations, there needs to be a mechanism in place to provide for an equitable review of all regional applications, and to fund them equitably. Because applications are scheduled to be reviewed at the August and November Board meetings, there is a question about whether allocations for funding should be made in August without knowing the amount being requested in November.

At the advisory group meeting on June 1, there was considerable discussion on the need to address this issue and provide a way for the Board and the library community to participate in the discussion. From this discussion the following recommendation emerged:

Recommendation:

Applications for network status received for consideration at the June and August Board meetings should be given the legal review as described above and a recommendation should be made to the Board for their approval or disapproval. No funds should be allocated to support plans of service as part of this approval process. When all plans of service are received, the Board will review them as a whole and make an allocation decision. In the interim, staff will work with the Board and the library community to develop a method by which an equitable allocation can be identified and made.

In addition, it is recommended that the Board not make major decisions on expenditures at the June and August Board meetings so that the budget in its entirety can be reviewed and discussed at the time the funding decision for regional operations is made.

During a conference call with Jim Dawe, Victoria Fong, Liz Gibson, Mark Parker and Diana Paque on June 6, there was also discussion of the manner in which funding decisions are made during Board meetings. The practice has been to address motions at the time the issue is addressed in the agenda. This practice does not allow for the Board to get an overall perspective of the budget or how the decision that is being made affects the potential funding of other programs or services. It was decided that a new section would be added to the board agenda for the August meeting following all Board discussion of issues that would allow for a review of the pending funding decisions as well as a review of the budget, and then provide for the Board to decide at one time on the funds to be allocated for all programs. Staff will be instituting this new practice with the August board agenda. Staff will provide a section for summarizing actions at the end of the June board agenda; however, actions on funding will follow the current practice for this meeting.

ISSUE 2: Discuss issues relating to the status of planning activity within the Planning Regions, including updates from each planning region.

At the February Board meeting, President Dawe requested that regular updates from Planning Regions be included in the regularly scheduled agenda to allow for Board comment and action. In addition, President Dawe asked that the Board be provided with names of staff liaisons to the Planning Regions as well as the names of the Planning Group Contacts. The Staff Liaison List as well as the List of Planning Region Contacts are now being included as a regular part of the Board packet in the introductory section for the Library of California.

At previous meetings, while there had been updates on planning activities during the regular Board meeting, the majority of comments about these activities came in the form of comments from the public. President Dawe was concerned that presentation of issues during the public comment period did not allow for any Board response or action to any concern or issue raised by the speaker. He asked that staff find an appropriate place in the agenda to provide updates, and thus, allow for both Board and public comments directly to the issues.

At the February Board Meeting, a panel of Linda Crowe, Ann Cousineau and Janice Koyama spoke to the Board about their concerns for the focus of Library of California implementation. They expressed the concern that significant energy was being placed on the development of regional organizations and that this energy was not resulting in the delivery of services to patrons, which is the goal of the Library of California. They also expressed the concern that the current direction makes the Library of California a difficult concept to sell to legislators, to local boards and to potential library members. In addition, they identified that there were numerous parts of the Library of California Act that should be considered for revision, including those which imposed the structural impediments being faced as part of regional network development. They suggested that the focus of the Library of California program should be shifted from organizational development to service delivery, and that the Act should be reviewed for possible amendment.

Members from regional planning groups spoke to the Board requesting that the process of regional development not be slowed down or postponed due to the significant amount of effort already expended by planning groups, and the intent of planning groups to submit their network applications to the Board during this calendar year.

The issues raised by the panel and the comments from the regional contacts were included in the discussion of the advisory group on June 1. That group assisted staff in the development of the set of funding options that are listed in the document in this Board packet entitled "Funding Issues for the Library of California," Document 7.

ISSUES RAISED IN PLANNING REGION UPDATES:

At the April Board meeting, the Board document listed a number of issues raised in the planning region updates provided. As time was brief, there was no time for discussion of these issues, so they are being repeated here. Regional updates were received from some regions and these appear in Exhibit A.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

Throughout the last year there has been a continuing concern expressed by regional contacts that we are spending more time and energy on governance and organizational structure and that increased emphasis should be placed on delivering services to libraries and their users. While Planning Regions have been developing the necessary documents, a continuing number of questions arise on structural issues. In addition, as Planning Regions have been presenting information to potential members, more questions arise about what the benefits are to libraries; what costs are associated with these benefits; and how Library of California services and programs fit with existing programs and services delivered by CLSA systems, the university and college systems and other statewide and regional organizations. These are some of the concerns brought to the Board at their planning session in February and are being expressed in both specific and conceptual terms at the regional level.

DOCUMENTS AND TEMPLATES:

During the last year, the Regional Planning Contacts have been working with the Library of California Team on the documents to develop regional library networks. The staff can only develop model or sample documents to assist regional planning. Should the staff direct the use of specific forms, those forms would need to be incorporated into the Library of California Regulations and be adopted as part of a Rulemaking process. Therefore, the Library of California Team is assisting Regional Planning Groups by providing sample or model forms and model documents, such as a bylaws template.

As part of this document-development process, a Bylaws Template was drafted to provide assistance to local groups in preparing their own bylaws. Since August 1999, we have been working with attorneys to first draft and then refine these model bylaws. As new questions arose, the bylaws were further refined. The latest draft was presented in January 2000, and regional planning groups have been using this draft. At some point,

staff will need to determine that our role in the drafting of bylaws is complete, and that the model, as it exists at that point in time will stand.

The Team has also been working with Planning Region Contacts on the development of application forms. A group of consultants hired by several of the planning regions has been working with Diana Paque to refine application forms and assure that all necessary elements are included. Again, the forms developed are models from the Library of California's perspective. Because the time involved in answering questions related to organizational structure has taken longer than anticipated, the forms which relate to the structure have also been delayed. Planning Groups must decide on the forms they will use and distribute them in the near future, and the Team needs to make the completion of these model forms a priority.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA:

The Library of California Act is specific in the criteria for membership, and the specificity relative to staffing causes considerable concern in all Planning Regions. As many school and special libraries do not have paid onsite staff with an MLS or school library media credential, Planning Regions are wrestling with the issue of inclusion and exclusion of perhaps an entire type of library in their areas. For Planning Region 1 the issues surrounding school libraries are critical, and we have been working with legal counsel to determine exactly what options are available for school libraries, school districts, and county offices of education. In addition, as there is considerable variation in the staffing of special libraries, all planning regions are discussing the elements of their membership policies that relate to these libraries.

RESOURCE LIBRARIES:

The Library of California Act identifies that there is a specific role in the Library of California for Resource Libraries on a statewide basis. It also identifies the need for regions to identify their regional resource libraries and the criteria and functions for these libraries. Concern is being expressed in a variety of groups about resource libraries and who they are, and what their roles are to be both regionally and statewide. Because planning groups are required to identify the criteria and functions of their regional resource libraries as part of their application process for network status, the issue is of primary importance to them.

The Library of California Team has spent much of its time working with the planning regions on regional library network development and with developing the statewide framework and structure that will support regional services and programs. The Resource Libraries component has been identified as a priority for funding in the upcoming year, and funding was requested for this component as part of the last Budget Change Proposal. In addition, there is a vacant consultant position within the Library of California Team that is being identified to work with both the Resource Libraries and Regional Network elements of the Library of California Program.

What is causing the greatest amount of frustration in the planning process is the lack of definition in the law and the lack of funding currently devoted towards developing this component. There is also the urgency of rapidly defining regional resource libraries without having definitions in place for the statewide program. In addition, since the planning process began in the late 1980's, technology has dramatically changed the role and functions of resource libraries and the services they can or should provide.

The Director has been working with representatives of the University of California and the California State University library directors to begin discussion on definitions for roles and services. Unfortunately, until the consultant position is filled, this program component will take a lower priority than others related to library network development.

INFORMATION AGENCIES:

As with regional resource libraries, the Act also requires networks to identify information agencies and the roles they will play in the regional library network. A loose definition is provided in the definition section of the Act, but there is little to clarify what their roles could or should be. The consultant for the Arroyo Seco Planning Region, Anne Marie Gold, has drafted an initial functional definition of an information agency which has been shared with all planning groups. Again, there is a sense of urgency to develop definitions because it is a required element of the application process. The Team has briefly discussed this draft definition and will continue to work with the planning regions to develop definitions to meet their regional needs.

TRANSITIONAL ISSUES FROM CLSA TO LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA:

As the Library of California develops, there is an increasing realization that it is a reality, and that a transition of services will need to take place from CLSA systems to the Library of California at some point in time. Public library directors, as well as others, are expressing their concern about, among other issues:

- receiving at least the same level of service through the Library of California as they do now through their CLSA systems;
- funding for programs, the current inadequacies in CLSA, and the need to develop new paradigms for funding Library of California programs and services;
- CLSA system operations and the issues related to maintaining potentially duplicative operational structures and services;
- planning and priority for transition of services and programs; and
- staffing and benefits issues.

At the Board Planning Session in February, all of these issues were raised. It will be the work of the Board's CLSA Transition Committee to set direction for the planning and development of transition policies and procedures. In the short term, there continues to be considerable discussion at both Planning Region meetings and CLSA System meetings about the implications of transitioning, and what they will mean to actual regional operations and services.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

Planning Region 3 mentioned in their planning update that it is a challenge to identify resources to both develop a regional library network and to deliver services. Planning Regions were cautioned to submit proposals for only those projects that they were confident they could complete successfully. What has become clear is that the burden of development falls on a small number of individuals, whether they are from participating libraries, hired consultants, or current CLSA System staff.

PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Planning Region 7 has commented on several occasions about the continuing and increasing need to publicize the work of libraries, planning groups, the emerging regional library networks, and the Library of California program. To date, efforts at publicity have been the result of local efforts, and have resulted in less than optimal publicity. The State Librarian has stated his intentions to improve communications and to develop and support quality communications about all State Library services and programs. Planning Region 7 offers some suggestions about increasing ongoing regular communications that the Library of California Team will seriously consider.

ISSUE 3: Review expenditure of Library of California funds allocated by the Board at the February and April 2000 meetings and discuss requests from Planning Regions for potential additional regional development grants in 2000/01.

BACKGROUND:

At the February and April Board meetings, the Board allocated funds to regions based on grant applications received. These grants were developed to support increased direct service to patrons, increased readiness of libraries to support future electronic services, as well as to support continued planning efforts necessary for planning regions to develop network applications. Exhibit B shows the allocations the Board made by Planning Region. Exhibit C is a description of all of the project grants funded through Board allocations.

CURRENT STATUS:

To date, all grant awards have been made to regional planning groups for projects and planning support. The total amount allocated by the Board was \$3,941,569. Actual awards have been made for \$3,414,020. When the Board allocated funds in February, it was done by category: Telecommunications, Databases, and Regional Development/Planning. Grant applications were assigned to categories based on a limited staff review. Upon in depth review, a number of applications were assigned to telecommunications and were not funded in that category. The result of this problem of categories is the \$527,000 difference between the allocation and the award amounts.

All planning regions submitted applications and have been awarded grants. Planning Regions submitted requests for projects based on:

- the readiness of libraries in their area,
- the availability of local resources to support projects, and
- the specific needs of the Planning Region in relation to their development towards becoming a regional library network.

There have been requests from planning regions for grant consideration in the upcoming fiscal year. These range from planning grants for supporting interim operations to database grants to consideration of other projects that have not fit within the current funding categories. These requests should be kept in mind as the budget for 2000/01 is developed.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Review of the status of planning activity within the Planning Regions, including updates from each Planning Region.
2. Consider applications from Regional Planning Groups to create Regional Library Networks.
3. Consider funding Regional Library Network Operations.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Diana Paque

**Cascade Pacific Libraries Planning Region Update,
April-May 2000**

The Planning Group held a meeting May 18 at the Tehama County Office of Education in Red Bluff. Region 1 is intending to submit its application for regional status for the August 2000 Board meeting. The group decided to change the name of the network to Cascade Pacific Library Network.

Pat Harper reported on June 2 that she has prepared materials to take to her Board of Supervisors for their approval, and these materials were posted so they would be available to regional libraries to use as models.

Constraints:

The major constraint during the third quarter was the difficulty of organizing subregional meetings. Although attendance was excellent at the five counties that held meetings in February, other counties did not participate in the process. An additional subregional meeting was held in Humboldt County May 6.

<p>REGION 2: GOLDEN GATEWAY LIBRARY NETWORK REPORT TO THE LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA BOARD Progress Report: April-May, 2000</p>

TIMETABLE FOR PLAN OF ACTION:

The Golden Gateway Library Network planning process is on schedule.
We expect to submit our application by the June 16, 2000 deadline:

COMMITTEES

Regional Resource Libraries (committee):

A joint meeting of the Resource Libraries Group and the Other-than-Libraries Information providers was held on April 7. The result was the recommendation for a "Regional Resource Libraries Clearinghouse Committee" that would coordinate resource library participation in GGLN activities. The joint committee then wrote the relevant sections of the application.

Assessment (committee)

The assessment that was distributed to public libraries in the MOBAC area and academic, schools, and special libraries in the BALIS/PLS/SVLS and MOBAC areas was compiled and incorporated in the GGLN plan of service

OUTREACH/WORKSHOPS/RETREATS:

Tri-System Retreat:

Gail McPartland and Roberto Esteves gave a presentation to the library directors of the Tri-Systems: BALIS/PLS/SVLS on April 13 at Silicon Graphics. Attendees reviewed the responsibilities of membership.

Santa Rosa School District:

Annette Milliron met with high, middle & elementary school librarians from Santa Rosa School District (more than 20 sites). She used the GGLN power point presentation and provided them Z39.50 grant information.

PacBell Workshops:

Annette Milliron and Jackie Siminitus presented two workshops for school and public librarians on collaboration in April. The workshops had 52 attendees representing schools, academic, special and public libraries. Various topics were reviewed in addition to the Library of California, including E-rate, Prop 14, LSTA, School Library Act, and the California Teleconnect Fund.

Baynet:

Linda Crowe and LOC Director Diana Paque made a presentation of the Library of California and the GGLN to approximately 150 special libraries on May 11.

San Mateo Community College

Gail McPartland made a presentation to the San Mateo Community College District on May 24. (The district voted to become LOC members)

ANNUAL GGLN MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

- A invitation went out to many libraries in the GGLN region to attend an informational "membership" meeting, held on the day proposed in the GGLN bylaws as the annual Membership/Council Meeting: 10am, the third Thursday of May at the San Francisco Public Library.
- Roberto Esteves produced a revised PowerPoint presentation highlighting the service plan of the Golden Gateway Library Network.
- Diana Paque and Linda Crowe answered questions from the participants. Fifty-seven people attended the meeting.

Mission Statement:

"The Golden Gateway Library Network supports regional resource sharing and seeks to maximize the ability of members to meet the information needs of their users."

This GGLN mission statement was adopted at the Membership meeting with a vote of: **41 YES; 0 NO**. Comments: One person suggested dropping the "seeks to" to strengthen the statement.

Plan of Service:

The Golden Gateway Library Network three year Plan of Service was adopted by the attendees of the annual membership meeting held on May 18. The plan was adopted by a vote of **40 YES; 0 NO; 1 abstention** (in order to have more time for review the plan)

FUNDING PROPOSALS

Four grant proposal were developed during May:

- **Regional Resource Sharing Initiative:**
An application was submitted on May 26 for a telecommunication infrastructure within the region. The program, titled the "Regional Resource Sharing Initiative", includes a comprehensive evaluation of the existing linking systems and of the commercial marketplace. The goal is to have a uniform resource sharing interface, or portal, for libraries and library users who wish to obtain materials from other libraries in the region. If funded, the initiative will create a telecommunications model for use by other regions and the state.
- **INN-Reach System**
An application was submitted on May 26 for a proposed INN-Reach system for multi-type libraries within the Golden Gateway Library Network region that are customers of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III). The program will use currently available software from III to link automation systems of participating libraries and will allow library users to place holds throughout the region. The proposal will also link regional libraries using the Z39.50 standard.
- **JobStar:**
A proposal to LOC requests sponsorship of JobStar, a statewide job and career service available via the Internet. Eight million people per month access this website. LOC funding would stabilize the on-going operation of this valuable service and provide an excellent opportunity to have the Library of California name associated with an award-winning, successful library program.

- **Electronic book-on-line: Test & Evaluation Project:**

An LSTA grant is being prepared by BALIS/MOBAC/PLS/SVLS for exploration of ebook collection services among libraries in the region. A planning meeting of 28 libraries was held on May 18.

LOC MEETINGS:

LOC Board Meeting

GGLN representatives: Linda Crowe, Roberto Esteves, Annette Milliron, Gail McPartland attended Library of California Board meeting: April 25 and 26 in Sacramento.

ILL/Direct Loan

On May 18, Annette Milliron went to Sacramento to attend the focus group meeting that reviewed the Himmel and Wilson Report.

DOCUMENTS:

- Membership Packet Supplementary Materials including sample resolution, and background information
- Membership Recruitment PowerPoint Presentation (revised and presented 5/18/00)
- The Bylaws were prepared and given to GGLN counsel for review
- Assessment Survey incorporated into LOC Application

CONSTRAINTS:

- Concerns of school librarians regarding the application form, has delayed its printing and final release. We have continued to recruit members using an earlier draft of the membership application.

Report Submitted by: Roberto Esteves: GGLN Planning Consultant:

Update to the Library of California Board on Region VII, Gold Coast Library Network

1. Describe where you are on the plan of action and timetable, ahead or behind schedule, and why.

Planning Region VII, the Gold Coast Library Network, is on schedule with its plan of action as of this report date. Planning Region VII intended to apply for network status for FY 2000-2001. Its Network Status Application was turned in to the State Library on 5-10-2000 for the June agenda of the Library of California Board. In addition, Planning Region VII submitted its telecommunications gateway catalog grant application for the Cat-A-Link Gold Virtual Union Catalog and Interlibrary Loan project on May 26, 2000.

2. List meetings and activities which promote the activities you have undertaken, and note any item, activity or function that would be of particular interest to the Board in reviewing your planning region's progress.

The Region VII Core Planning Group met monthly on February 24, March 23, April 20 and May 25 to develop its Annual Service Plan, its Long Range Plan of Service, its Annual Budget, its Membership Criteria and Membership Form, and its Network Status Application. Region VII's activities can be followed on the Gold Coast Library Network's Web Site at URL <http://goldcoastlibraries.org>. Agendas, minutes, documents in development, newsletters and related materials are posted there permitting interested persons to keep up-to-date on Region VII activities. In addition, people can join the Gold Coast Library Network listserv. Instructions are in the newsletter on the Web Site.

3. Comment on any constraints that have hampered implementation of the planning process, how they were addressed and future actions required.

Time has been our biggest constraint. The members of the Core Planning Group must devote significant travel time to each meeting they attend. We are looking forward to videoconferencing to decrease the travel burden and promote participation. In addition, Region VII lost the services of its part-time secretary in early May, just when final preparation of the Network Status Application was being completed. Her illness directly reduced time available for Region VII work and as well as robbing us of her knowledge and understanding of Region VII.

These problems have been addressed by using electronic communication as much as possible by hiring a replacement for the secretary who started work on 5-26-2000.

4. Provide any additional comments that give the Board a picture of planning activity, development of services, and promotion of the Region and the Library of California.

Planning Region VII has been working on implementation of the Network Development grants it received from the Library of California Board.

Membership Promotion and Communications. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo has been the lead library on this grant. A preliminary template for an online Web Directory of Libraries and a Home Page template for local library use have been developed. Equipment is being ordered now to support this work.

Gale Biography Resource Online Database Grant. Negotiations with the vendor, Gale Group, are underway. Some libraries are expected to be able to access the Gale Biography Resource database in June.

Analysis of Electronic Status Grant. A consultant is being identified to conduct the assessment of the electronic readiness of the libraries in Region VII. The assessment has not actually started yet.

Video Conferencing Sites Grant. Agreements with the host sites for video conferencing equipment are being developed. Telecommunications connections are being ordered. The view station equipment itself will be ordered after ascertaining which brands and models will be compatible with the Rural Initiative's video conferencing project, coordinated by Al Bennett. The Initiative expects to place one view station setup in Region VII.

Submitted by Judith Segel, Fiscal agent, Region VII
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Awards Made Through June 1, 2000
By Planning Region

Planning Region 1: Cascade Pacific Libraries - Total Grants: \$ 174,418

Initial Planning Grant
 Gale Health Database
 Novelist Database

Planning Region 2: Golden Gateway - Total Grants: \$ 755,783

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 SuperSearch Project
 Electric Library
 Entrepreneur Development
 Direct Loan Pilot

Planning Region 3: Sierra Valley - Total Grants: \$ 681,687

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 First Search Database
 Electric Library
 Technology Inventory Project
 Focus Group Project

Planning Region 4: Arroyo Seco - Total Grants: \$1,406,028

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 Web-Based Reference Project
 LA Times/Orange Co. Register
 Noticias en Espanol database
 Database Negotiation Pilot

Planning Region 5: Tierra del Sol - Total Grants: \$ 426,147

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 Tribal Libraries Grant
 Videoconferencing Inventory
 Gale Literary Reference Center

Planning Region 6: Heartland - Total Grants: \$ 132,596

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 Promotional Campaign
 Membership Recruitment

Planning Region 7: Gold Coast - Total Grants: \$ 472,361

Initial Planning Grant
 Planning Grant Augmentation
 Videoconferencing Project
 Electronic Status Project
 Communications Campaign
 Gale Biography Reference Center

Library of California
Description of Project Grants Funded
by the Board February and April 2000

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT GRANTS

Planning Region 2, SuperSearch project

SuperSearch is a fully automated patron initiated interlibrary loan program that currently facilitates resource sharing in a multi-type library environment of 27 libraries in Planning Region 2. This project provides for new software licenses and installation at additional school, academic, special, and public library sites to enhance the resources of the planning region.

Planning Region 4, Web-Based Reference project

This project establishes a web-based network of reference librarians, allowing requests from one library to be answered by a subject specialist at a participating library. It facilitates access to web-based resources by providing expert assistance to users through the web.

Planning Region 7, Videoconferencing project

Gold Coast is a Planning Region which covers three counties. This project funds the purchase and installation of videoconferencing equipment in each county and train Planning Region members in using this equipment.

DATABASE PROJECT GRANTS

Planning Region 1, Gale Health Reference Center

This project provides a one-year trial subscription to Cascade Pacific Libraries Planning Region for a web-based consumer health information resource. The database contains a variety of health information materials at varying levels, providing a resource that can be used in most libraries in the Planning Region. It was chosen because of the lack of adequate health library resources in the Planning Region to meet the needs of the general public.

Planning Region 1, NoveList

Novelist is an electronic readers' advisory resource which assists fiction readers in finding new authors and titles. It includes in excess of 85,000 titles at all age levels and is appropriate for use in public, school and academic libraries. This project is a one-year trial subscription.

Planning Region 2, Electric Library

Electric Library is a collection of a broad range of full-text materials including magazines, newspapers, books, pictures, and television and radio transcripts. The variety of source types, titles, and currency of information makes this an ideal tool for school and public library users. This project is a one-year trial subscription.

Planning Region 3, FirstSearch

FirstSearch is a tool which provides access to more than 80 databases through one website. While it is a tool to be used by librarians to assist patrons, its resources are of value to all types of libraries in the Planning Region. This project provides a one-year trial subscription to 100,000 searches that will be distributed in blocks to participating libraries.

Planning Region 3, Electric Library

Electric Library is a collection of a broad range of full-text materials including magazines, newspapers, books, pictures, and television and radio transcripts. The variety of source types, titles, and currency of information makes this an ideal tool for school and public library users. This is a one-year trial subscription for all libraries in the Sierra Valley Planning Region.

Planning Region 4, LA Times/Orange Co. Register Newspaper

This project provides web-based access to the *Los Angeles Times* or the *Orange County Register* for participating libraries in the Arroyo Seco Planning Region, at the choice of the participating library. In negotiating the price with the vendor, it was determined that a Planning Region-wide negotiated price is approximately half of what it would cost the individual libraries to acquire the web subscription individually. The local newspaper is a database that can be of use to all types of libraries and their patrons.

Planning Region 4, Noticias en Espanol

Noticias en Espanol is a unique resource containing a wealth of primary source information from Spanish-language news sources around the world. This collection offers multiple perspectives on current issues from domestic and international Spanish news services, as well as local Spanish newspapers from across the United States, including *la Opinion*, the Los Angeles Spanish language newspaper. This is a one-year trial subscription for all libraries in the Arroyo Seco Planning Region.

Planning Region 4, Database Negotiation Pilot project

This project is a pilot to develop contract negotiating skills and strategies for a multitype library environment. Arroyo Seco's population is 39% of the entire state, and a nexus of skilled negotiators exists within it to be able to undertake and complete the project. Any database(s) negotiated through this project would be purchased by participating libraries and are not included in the cost of the project.

Planning Region 5, Gale Literary Reference Center

Gale Literary Reference Center provides a number of Gale literary reference tools in a web-based format. Included, among others, are such series as: *Contemporary Authors*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, and *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. This is a one-year trial subscription for all libraries in the Tierra del Sol Planning Region.

Planning Region 7, Gale Biography Reference Center

Gale Biography Reference Center provides a number of biographical reference tools in a web-based format. Included, among others, are such series as: *Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, *Biography Index*, and *Current Biography*. This is a one-year trial subscription for all libraries in the Gold Coast Planning Region.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GRANTS

Planning Region 2, Entrepreneurial project

This project supports consultative assistance to the Planning Region in the development of the identification of opportunities and resources to support user needs and help to establish regional financial self-sufficiency. Goals are to increase skills in accessing entrepreneurial expertise and to develop a plan for the expansion and funding of those service programs deemed most efficient and needed, as well as to plan the development of new programs with entrepreneurial elements to meet identified needs. These goals will help the Planning Region in efforts to provide services beyond those that are strictly state-funded.

Planning Region 3, Technology Inventory project

This project supports the expansion of the technology inventory process initiated by the 49-99 and MVLS systems to all Sierra Valley Planning Region libraries. Final reports will identify areas for future connectivity planning and suggestions on best approaches. Libraries will be selected in a targeted manner to support regional planning efforts and development of Planning Regional plans of service.

Planning Region 3, Focus Groups project

This project supports focus groups throughout the Planning Region targeting libraries which have been the most difficult to reach: primarily school and special libraries. Outcomes will be used in the development of the planning materials necessary for the Planning Region to submit with its application to the Board for network affiliation.

Planning Region 5, Tribal Library Development project

Tierra del Sol has identified a large number of tribal libraries that are currently not participating in the planning process. This grant is to work with the reservations to develop models for interaction with tribal libraries, and to identify information needs, and to investigate ways they may become involved with the Library of California. Implicit in the campaign is the extension of services to the underserved and underrepresented populations within the region.

Planning Region 5, Videoconferencing Development project

Planning Region 5 has the largest area of any of the 5 planning regions. This project is to: assess the planning region's need, inventory the availability of videoconferencing equipment in the region, develop a model for distance communications, and describe the equipment needed to meet videoconferencing needs.

Planning Region 6, Promotional Campaign project

This is a Planning Region-wide promotional campaign to recruit members to the network and to ignite general public interest in libraries, in the regional network and the Library of California. Implicit in the campaign is the extension of services to the underserved and underrepresented populations within the Planning Region.

Planning Region 6, Membership Recruitment project

This project provides the resources to facilitate a membership drive for libraries to participate in the Heartland Planning Region. It provides for a membership coordinator and the development of traditional and web-based membership materials to support activities.

Planning Region 7, Analysis of Electronic Status project

This project supports gathering information on the automation status and readiness of libraries in the Planning Region to support electronic access. The gathering of this information is fundamental to development of any electronically based services and is needed to develop future plans of Planning Regional connectivity. The Planning Region has shown interest in a number of automated ventures, all requiring this information as a planning foundation.

Planning Region 7, Communications Campaign project

This project develops web-based resource access for the Planning Region. It supports the development of a library website template that can be used by member libraries as a starting point to develop their own websites to help share their resources with each other. It also provides assistance and training to libraries in mounting and maintaining their own websites. With the development of the regional library network, the project funds the creation of an online directory of members, as well as a logo and graphic identification of the network.